

Minutes of Parish Councils' Liaison Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 9 June 2011 starting at 7.15pm
Present: P Young (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Dowson	M Robinson
R Hargreaves	C Ross
T Hill	I Sayers
G Mirfin	G Scott
R Newmark	D Taylor

Parish Representatives:

D Bland	Aighton Bailey & Chaigley
P Young	Balderstone
R Carr	Bowland Forest (Higher)
J Porter	Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
H Douglas	Chatburn
P Hunt	Chipping
B Redhead	Clayton-le-Dale
A Knox	Clitheroe
J Shervy	Clitheroe
A Yearling	Clitheroe
R Ashton	Downham
S Hopwood	Dutton
B Holden	Grindleton
P Moorey	Hothersall
F Priest	Longridge
C Parkinson	Longridge
N C Walsh	Mellor
S Rostron	Paythorne & Newsolme
A Ormand	Ribchester
I O'Reilly	Rimington
D King	Rimington
J D Waterhouse	Read
A Mashiter	Read
M Calvert	Sabden
I R Hirst	Simonstone
K Staines	Waddington
K Jackson	Waddington
D Parker	Waddington
A Bristol	West Bradford
C Cherry	West Bradford
M Huyton	Whalley
T Gaffney	Wilpshire
M Wilkinson	Wiswell & Barrow

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Culture and Leisure Services, Head of Regeneration and Housing.

Members stood for a minute's silence in memory of Parish Councillors Alan Dales from Mellor and Cyril Law from Read who had died since the last meeting of this Committee.

90 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were sought for the position of Chairman of this Committee for 2011/2012.

RESOLVED: That Parish Councillor Pat Young from Balderstone be appointed Chairman of this Committee for 2011/2012.

91 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor D Taylor be appointed as Vice Chairman of this Committee for 2011/2012.

92 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Borough Councillor R Swarbrick and from the following Parish Representatives:

B Dowles	Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley
P Ride	Gisburn
P Entwistle	Grindleton
A Duckworth	Simonstone
G Malloy	Simonstone

93 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

94 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 816(a) – Three tier forum

Members were reminded that they had agreed to defer consideration of this matter until this meeting. An appointment of a Parish Council representative was being requested by Lancashire County Council for the emerging three-tier forum.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman of this Committee, Councillor Pat Young be nominated as the Parish Council's representative on the three tier forum.

b) Minute 817 – Torchlight Procession

The Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to this minute and now informed Committee that the torchlight procession had been moved back to 22 September 2012 to avoid a clash with the Preston Guild celebrations and also reported that the Regimental Band of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment would not be able to attend the event.

c) Minute 819(a) – Parish Council Clerks and PAYE

The Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing referred to this minute and reported that the Leader of the Council had written to Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs voicing his concern on this matter.

Committee also received a resume of the process which the Clerk to Ribchester had undergone in order to resolve this matter and find out more information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

d) Minute 820 – Proposed Withdrawal of Payphone at Thornley with Wheatley

The Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing now reported that there had been no objections raised in relation to this proposal and therefore no objections would be forthcoming from this Council.

95 PUBLIC REALM

The Chairman introduced Brian Eagles, the Public Realm Manager employed by Lancashire County Council who explained the concept of public realm which included:

- Highway maintenance
- Grass verges
- Street lighting
- Street signs
- Street furniture
- Traffic regulation

Public realm was an attempt by Lancashire County Council to work more closely with Ribble Valley Borough Council and Parish and Town Councils on all aspects which affect highways, roads and streets. It was all about finding cost effective solutions to problems and listening to local communities. Whilst there was a statutory duty on the highway authority, this had to be considered alongside the fact that streets were where people lived.

Issues affecting public realm were included in a recently published highways bulletin from the Lancashire County Council. The idea of collaboration had first been mooted in 2010 but the early onset of winter had put these arrangements on

hold. However, it was hoped that by starting the consultation earlier this year, there would be a more positive impact made into cross authority collaboration. Chris Hughes explained the role of Ribble Valley Borough Council within the public realm initiative. He explained that one of the key considerations was avoiding duplication and ensuring greater collaboration and co-operation between all organisations who owned and maintained any element of public realm. All organisations were aware that funding would be severely restricted over the next few years so it was vitally important to work together on matters of equal concern.

Councillor Yearling then asked about progress with 20mph speed limits in Clitheroe. Brian Eagles replied by informing Committee that Lancashire County Council were proposing to introduce 20mph speed limits in all main residential areas across the county within the next 2½ years on a phased programme. The area of north and west Clitheroe would be included within the first tranche to be commented in late summer/early autumn 2011.

Members then asked a number of questions on this matter particularly around levels of consultation with Parish Councils, selection criteria for which streets would and would not be included, how the zones would be policed, how compliance would be achieved and whether extra speed cameras and engineering would be required. Brian replied that consultation would be minimal, the selection procedure was that side streets in residential areas would be targeted but not main roads and that the police had promised a degree of enforcement, although it was hoped that communities would provide a large degree of self enforcement. There were no proposals to provide extra speed cameras or street engineering.

Discussion then centred around the inclusion of schools within 20mph zones. Parish representatives were also concerned about difficulties with communications for the general public with the highways department and the uneven distribution of the highways bulletin. Brian promised to take these concerns on board.

RESOLVED: That Brian and Chris be thanked for their presentation.

96

QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE

The Head of Culture and Leisure Services presented a report which informed Members of this scheme and the issues involved in those wishing to apply. He reminded Members that the EQII challenge was a campaign to protect 2012 outdoor spaces not just playing fields for communities across the country and to create a fitting and lasting grass roots legacy across the UK to mark both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

The Council had held a meeting with a representative from the Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) to go through the criteria for applicants in order to identify eligibility under the scheme. Details were given of the type of sites which would be eligible which included sports pitches and

playing fields, open spaces, parks, children's play areas, country parks and woodland, amongst others.

If organisations wished to sign up to the challenge they could nominate as many spaces as they wished and local communities could then be asked to vote for their preference.

One of the primary reasons behind the scheme was to develop a high profile project to contribute to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. The secondary reason was around the protection of play fields, hence the involvement of Fields in Trust. By way of an incentive, Sport England had recently announced lottery funding – protecting playing fields – that had ties to the 2012 Olympic legacy and also the QEII playing fields challenge. The Trust had also announced a small grants programme primarily aimed at volunteers to help with improvements to parks and open spaces. Officers would hopefully attend the launch of these funds to determine what benefits there may be to the Council and other facilities in the borough.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

97 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

a) Waddington – double yellow lines in villages

A Parish Councillor from Waddington asked about the policing of double yellow lines in villages and whether it was actually being carried out. The Head of Regeneration and Housing promised to raise this matter with the Head of Engineering and report back to a future meeting. He commented that parking enforcement was no longer a police matter and was now dealt with by the civil enforcement arm of the Lancashire County Council.

RESOLVED: That this matter be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

b) Clitheroe Town Council – Data Protection Act

Councillor Knox brought Members' attention a new directive from the Information Commissioner's Office whereby all Councillors were being required to register with them under the Data Protection Act. Whilst it was recognised that not all Councillors needed to register, it was a criminal offence not to do so and this would be particularly onerous for Parish Councillors. The cost of registration was £35. Councillor Knox urged that Committee write to the relevant government minister and the borough's MP about this matter.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write to the relevant government minister and Nigel Evans MP protesting about this matter.

c) Clayton-le-Dale – Revitalising Town Centres

This matter had been raised in the light of the government's initiative to revitalise town centres and the importance of facilitating parking to encourage footfall. The Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing promised to look into this matter and report back to the next meeting.

98 STANDARDS COMMITTEE – VACANCIES

The Chief Executive referred to the report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services about three vacancies which existed on the Council's Standards Committee, two of which were for Parish Council representatives and one was an Independent member. He further commented that any member who wished to take up one of the vacancies should contact Diane Rice. The first meeting of the Standards Committee would be held on 15 June 2011.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

99 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Sale of police houses

Councillor Ranson informed Committee that Lancashire Constabulary were reviewing the position of police houses across the county with a decision due to be taken on Friday, 10 June which would be followed by a public consultation exercise about the potential sale of police houses. He urged Parish Councillors to have their say in this consultation.

b) Core Strategy

The Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing reported on the timescale for the Local Development Framework with a report going to Planning and Development Committee on 16 June. This would look at a range of consultations. The preferred strategy was likely to emerge at the end of September 2011. If Councillors had any queries they should contact Colin Hirst, Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing.

c) Leaflets on make it difficult for the burglar

The Community Development Officer referred to the leaflet which had been circulated at the meeting and urged Parish Councillors to ensure that the important messages contained in the leaflet were passed on to the public. Burglary was currently the single largest volume crime within the Ribble Valley with many crimes being committed by criminals who travel into the area from surrounding districts. These leaflets would be being distributed in hot spot areas and would be available at agricultural shows over the summer.

100 INVITATION TO POLICE TO SPEAK AT FUTURE MEETING

The Head of Head of Regeneration and Housing suggested that, as there were a number of police related issues on this agenda, it might be a good idea to invite a representative from Eastern Division Police to speak at the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive invite a relevant officer from Eastern Police Division to speak to this Committee at their next meeting in September.

101 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman thanked Members for attending and reported that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on Thursday, 29 September 2011 starting at 7.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Colin Hirst (414503).